



Field Notes

Information for Councils on Developmental Disabilities



Announcements

HHS & Education Department Launch New 'Stop Bullying' Website

The U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Education have launched a redesigned [Stop Bullying](#) website to encourage children, parents, teachers and communities to take action to stop and prevent bullying. The website has a map with information on [state laws and policies](#) and videos for young people, along with practical strategies for schools and communities to make sure that [environments are safe](#). It also includes suggestions on how parents can discuss bullying with their children and information on the dangers of [cyberbullying](#) and ways to prevent it.

US Labor Department announces availability of \$12 million in grants to provide employment services for formerly incarcerated females

The U.S. Department of Labor today announced the availability of approximately \$12 million in grants to provide workforce development and support services for formerly incarcerated adult and youth females as they make the transition from justice facilities back to their communities.

"Communities benefit when formerly incarcerated individuals are able to smoothly and effectively reintegrate into their neighborhoods," said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. "The programs funded through today's grant announcement will make this transition easier, resulting in more stable families and brighter futures."

Grantees must provide participants with services including job training that will lead to credentials in high-demand industries; employment preparation; mentoring and assistance in connecting to supportive services such as housing, and treatment for

substance abuse and mental health issues; and assistance with parenting and child reunification. While designed to expand opportunities for formerly incarcerated females, services funded by the grants also must be open to eligible formerly incarcerated males.

[AAPD Seeks Disability Policy Fellow](#)

AAPD has partnered with The HSC Foundation to create the Youth Transitions Fellowship (YTF). The full-time fellow works on the organizations' youth transition and collaboration work. The fellow facilitates collaboration among internship programs based in the Greater Washington, DC area, including the Greater Washington Internship Coalition. The YTF also works closely with The HSC Foundation's National Youth Transitions Center (NYTC), a collaborative learning community to benefit youth with disabilities and returning veterans. [Learn more](#)

[Social Security to Fast-Track Disability Decisions on 52 New Medical Conditions](#)

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has added 52 new [Compassionate Allowances](#) (CA) conditions mainly involving neurological disorders, cancers and rare diseases. The CA program speeds up disability decisions to make sure that Americans with the most [serious disabilities](#) receive their benefit decisions within days instead of months or years. SSA is also improving its [online](#) disability application process. Learn more about [how to apply](#) for disability benefits. If you've already filed an application and it was denied you can [file an appeal](#).

[ODEP Announces Unprecedented Grant Funding](#)

Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Office of Disability Employment Policy Kathy Martinez announced first-of-its-kind grant funding on Monday for four states under the "Employment First" initiative. The effort helps facilitate the full inclusion of people with the most significant disabilities into the workplace and community. Under the new Employment First State Leadership Mentor Program the states of Iowa, Oregon and Tennessee will receive grants to assist with planning, policy development and capacity building. In addition to receiving technical assistance from national experts in employment of people with significant disabilities, these states also will receive assistance from officials in the state of Washington — which is receiving a grant for mentoring. "Many people with the most significant disabilities are often considered unable to work," Martinez said. "It's time to move beyond the stereotypes and misconceptions that people cannot work. We must be able to benefit from the talents and contributions of all our citizens." [Learn More About Employment First](#)

Funding Opportunities

Federal Agency Name: Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Funding Opportunity Title: Improving Health of People with Intellectual Disabilities

Announcement Type:

- New – Type 1

Agency Funding Opportunity Number: CDC-RFA-DD12-1201

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 93.184

Key Dates:

Letter of Intent Deadline Date: April 6, 2012

Application Deadline Date: May 21, 2012, 11:59pm U.S. Eastern Standard Time

Executive Summary:

The goal of this program is to improve the health of people with intellectual disabilities (ID) by improving access to health services and promoting healthy behaviors. The program shall accomplish health improvements by:

- providing health assessments, referral to services, and education to persons with ID
- training health care professionals to improve their skill in caring for people with ID
- raising awareness of the health needs of persons with ID and
- improving related health care access.

Measurable outcomes of the program will align with one (or more) of the following performance goal(s) of the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD), Division of Human Development and Disability (DHDD):

Priority 1: Reduce disparities in key health indicators, including obesity in children, youth, and adults with disabilities.

Priority 4: Identify and reduce disparities in health care access for people with disabilities.

This announcement is only for non-research activities supported by CDC. If research is proposed, the application will not be reviewed. For the definition of research, please see the following CDC website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/od/science/integrity/docs/cdc-policy-distinguishing-public-health-research-nonresearch.pdf>

Training Opportunities**From Numbers to Action: Understanding the New Autism Prevalence Estimates & How YOU Can Help Families Take Action**

The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention recently reported that 1 in 88 children in the United States has an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). More people than ever before are being diagnosed with an ASD. Join us for this special webinar in which speakers from the CDC will discuss the new numbers, as well as what you can do to help! This is a webinar that you definitely do not want to miss! Register today!

Time: Tuesday, April 17, 2012, from 2:00 to 3:00 PM EST

Speakers: Jon Baio, Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network, CDC

Katie K. Green, "Learn the Signs. Act Early" Program, CDC

Space is limited. [Reserve your seat now for the April 17, 2012 webinar.](#)